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## **Introduction to the Created Variable Appendices**

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The main file NLSY97 CD-ROM contains a number of created variables. These created variables will be included on each public release of the NLSY97. With very few exceptions, these variables are either commonly used items that are derived from a number of different NLSY97 survey questions or longitudinal items that require updating in each round. If they were not provided, creating either the longitudinal or the cross-sectional variables might present difficulties for some NLSY97 users. In general, the created variables present information in five topical areas: education, employment, family background and formation, geographic information, and income and assets.

The first five appendices present the programs that were used to create the NLSY97 variables in round 4. The majority of programs are in SAS; a few are in SPSS. In the interest of space, four variables were not included in these appendices. These are the following:

CV\_INTERVIEW\_CMONTH  
CV\_INTERVIEW\_DATE  
CV\_AGE\_INT\_DATE  
CV\_AGE(MONTHS)\_INT\_DATE

These variables are either directly picked up from the data set or relatively easy to compute. In the case of CV\_INTERVIEW\_CMONTH and CV\_AGE(MONTHS)\_INT\_DATE, a simple formula of  $\{([variable\ year-1980]*12)+variable\ month\}$  was used to translate the dates into a continuous month scheme (see Appendix 7 for a further explanation of the continuous month scheme).

The programs in this supplement are provided for the convenience of the user and are available electronically from NLS User Services (see the Table of Contents for contact information).

Appendices 6 and 7 provide detailed information about the creation of the event history variables, a special set of variables included on the main file CD-ROM. Although programs are not included, the text of Appendix 6 describes the various status arrays available and discusses the creation and editing process. Appendix 7 explains the continuous month and continuous week systems used in the creation of event history variables and provides a crosswalk of continuous month/week and actual dates so that researchers can associate event history variables with other information about the respondents.

Appendices 10 and 11 describe the variables created from two special data collections: the administration of the computer-adaptive version of the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery and the Transcript Survey, which gathered transcripts from high schools attended by selected NLSY97 respondents. Providing additional information about the educational experiences, abilities, and aptitudes of NLSY97 respondents, these data collections required specialized coding and variable creation procedures.

## INDEX TO CREATED VARIABLE PROGRAMS

This section lists by question name each NLSY97 created variable for which a program is provided in this document, along with the accompanying page number for the program.

CV_AA_DEGREE, 46	CV_HOURS_WK_YR_ET.xx, 110
CV_AMT_GOVNT_PGM_PCY.xx, 296	CV_HOURS_WK_YR_SE.xx, 110
CV_ASSOC_CREDITS.xx, 60	CV_HRLY_COMPENSATION, 128
CV_BA_CREDITS.xx, 60	CV_HRLY_PAY, 128
CV_BA_DEGREE, 46	CV_HS_DIPLOMA, 46
CV_BIO_CHILD_HH, 267	CV_INCOME_GROSS_YR, 278
CV_BIO_CHILD_NR, 267	CV_JOB<13_WKS, 128
CV_CENSUS_REGION, 275	CV_MARRIAGES_TTL, 258
CV_CHILD_BIRTH_DATE.xx_M, _Y, 267	CV_MARSTAT, 258
CV_CHILD_BIRTH_MONTH.xx, 267	CV_MARSTAT_COLLAPSED, 258
CV_CHILD_DEATH_DATE.xx_M, _Y, 267	CV_MSA, 275
CV_CHILD_DEATH_MONTH.xx, 267	CV_PIAT_PERCENTILE_SCORE, 65
CV_CHILD_STATUS.xx, 267	CV_PIAT_STANDARD_SCORE, 65
CV_COHAB_TTL, 258	CV_SCH_ATTEND_EVER, 57
CV_ENROLLSTAT, 31	CV_SCH_ATTEND_YR, 57
CV_FIRST_COHAB_DATE_M, _Y, 258	CV_SCHOOL_SIZE, 67
CV_FIRST_COHAB_MONTH, 258	CV_SCHOOL_TYPE, 44
CV_FIRST_MARRY_DATE_M, _Y, 258	CV_STUDENT_TEACHER_RATIO, 67
CV_FIRST_MARRY_MONTH, 258	CV_TRN_CERT, 69
CV_GED, 46	CV_TRN_CERT_DATE-M, -Y, 69
CV_GOVNT_PGM_EVER, 296	CV_TTL_JOB_ALL.xx, 121
CV_GOVNT_PGM_YR.xx, 296	CV_TTL_JOB_ET.xx, 121
CV_GRADE_SKIPPED_EVER, 48	CV_TTL_JOB_SE.xx, 121
CV_GRADE_SKIPPED_YR, 48	CV_TTL_JOBS_ADULT_ALL, 125
CV_GRADES_REPEAT_EVER, 48	CV_TTL_JOBS_ADULT_ET, 125
CV_GRADES_REPEAT_YR, 48	CV_TTL_JOBS_TEEN, 125
CV_HGC_EVER, 31	CV_TTL_RESIDENCES, 271
CV_HGC_YR, 31	CV_URBAN_RURAL, 276
CV_HH_NET_WORTH, 278	CV_WKSWK_ADULT_ALL, 99
CV_HH_POV_RATIO, 278	CV_WKSWK_ADULT_ET, 99
CV_HH_REL_CURRENT, 256	CV_WKSWK_DLI_ALL, 98
CV_HH_SIZE, 255	CV_WKSWK_DLI_ET, 98
CV_HH_UNDER_18, 255	CV_WKSWK_DLI_SE, 98
CV_HH_UNDER_6, 255	CV_WKSWK_JOB_DLI.xx, 108
CV_HIGHEST_DEGREE_EVER, 31	CV_WKSWK_JOB_YR.xx.xx, 102
CV_HIGHEST_DEGREE_YR, 31	CV_WKSWK_TEEN, 99
CV_HOURS_WK_ADULT_ALL, 116	CV_WKSWK_YR_ALL.xx, 94
CV_HOURS_WK_ADULT_ET, 116	CV_WKSWK_YR_ET.xx, 94
CV_HOURS_WK_TEEN, 116	CV_WKSWK_YR_SE.xx, 94
CV_HOURS_WK_YR_ALL.xx, 110	UNEMPRATE-COL, 276